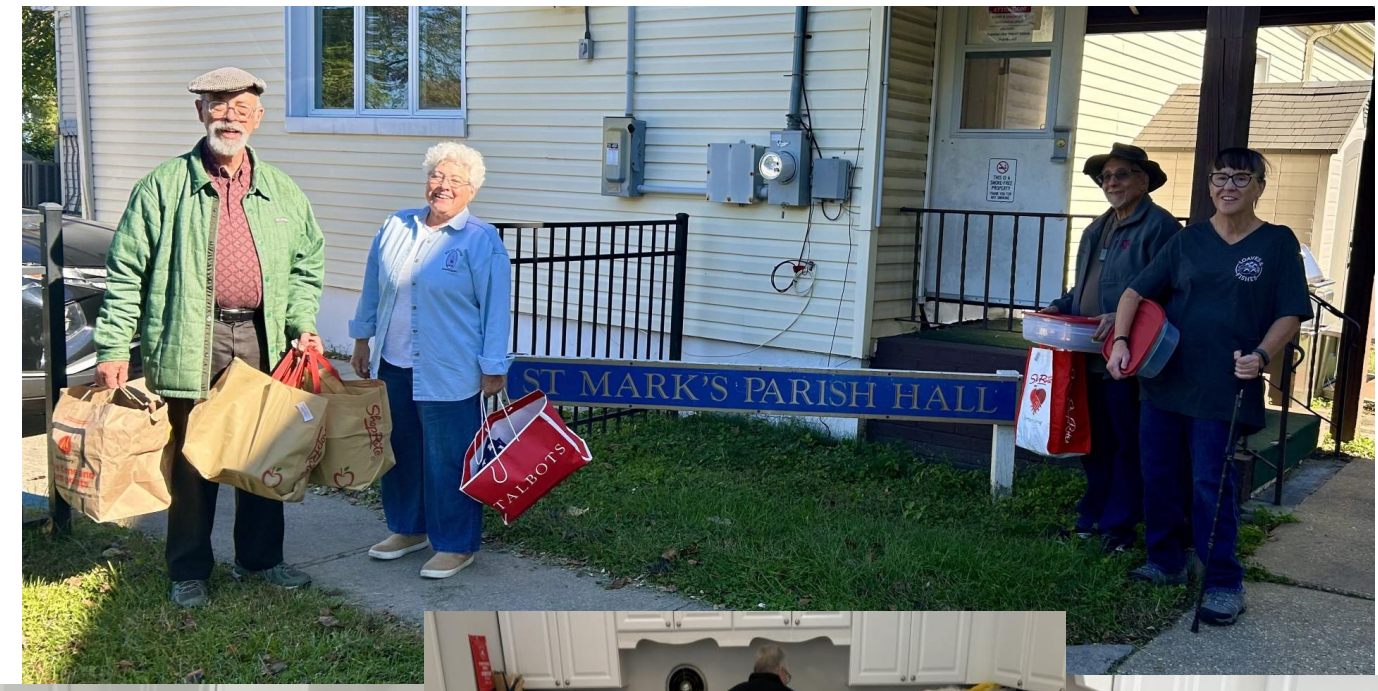
# THE CROWN

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
*Your Church Family Since 1702*
SHREWSBURY, NJ

*The Newsletter of Christ Church Shrewsbury*

*Christ Church is a community committed to exploring the reality of God in today's world*

**Volume XXVI Issue XI** **November 2026**










Dear Friends,

November points us in the direction of Thanksgiving and the new church year of Advent—and we have so much to celebrate, give thanks for, and anticipate!

Over the past few weeks, we've had conversations about our roles in maintaining the awe-inspiring history of Christ Church—almost 325 years!—and what we hope to see in the very near future. We've asked these questions:

*What does Christ Church mean to you? What would you miss if we weren't here?*

*What do you hope will still be here for the people who come after us?*

*What kind of church do we want Christ Church to be?*

*What ministry do we believe Christ Church has now, what do we need, and what resources are necessary to provide it?*

*How have you experienced God's presence as a result of our ministries and clergy leadership?*

*What ministries have made a difference in your life—or in the life of someone you love?*

*What do you believe we should make possible for the next few years to come?*

We've enjoyed hearing your answers, and the conclusion of our focused Stewardship Season doesn't call for the questions and answers to end! On the contrary, we hope to keep having these conversations again and again as we work together. Your wardens, vestry, and I are always available to listen when you have thoughts and concerns to share.

In the past few months, we've had so many new initiatives that you've supported: our Family Sunday services, our work providing a meal for the folks at St. Mark's in Keansburg, our upcoming Sing-a-Long Holiday Concert as part of our Bazaar weekend, and much more. What else do we want to see as part of our parish life and our life in the wider community?

I couldn't be more grateful and excited, in this season of gratitude and new beginnings, to be here with you. We've been given so much, and out of our abundance we're called to give back: to each other, to our congregation, to our community, and to the world.

Susanna+

## WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

**All are welcome!**

- Wednesdays at 12:15 pm
- Saturdays at 5 pm
- Sundays at 10 am

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## OFFICE HOURS

Our parish office hours are Monday through Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm.

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## PARISH DIRECTORY

Please advise us of any changes in address, e-mail, or telephone number so we can keep our records up to date.

If you would like a copy of our directory, please send us an email or call the Church Office at 732-741-2220.

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## YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

**For the sick and suffering, and those in any need or trouble:**

Ann, Beverly Ryser, Bill Balmer, Cassie Reagan, Chip, Connie Goddard, Denzel Donaldson, Elaine Feyereisen, Judi Buncher, Marguerite, Mignon Williams, MiMi Brown, Pam, Pat and Bill Jaeger, Paul Murgio, Phyllis + Jackie, Rod Webster, Skylar, Tia LaPiana

***May they be relieved of their distress.***

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## BOSCOVS

The Boscovs fundraising event culminated with the BIG SALE on October 21, 2026. I hope everyone who bought a coupon got a good buy (or two). Seems to me we raised at least $100. It's something.

Thankfully, Sue Nap

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

Exploration of the Old Testament continues and activities abound. Moving into November we will start with All Saints Day then continue on with the curriculum. Already by the end of

November we'll find ourselves in Advent. Boy how time flies!

Faithfully, Mrs. Nap
Christian Ed Director

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## DECORATING FOR THE BAZAAR

Following coffee hour on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 29 (which is also the first Sunday of Advent) we will be decorating the Parish House for the Bazaar. It's a fun time for fellowship and to get ourselves revved up for the big events on December 4 and 5. If you're interested in helping, let me know. Lots to do and the more helpers the merrier!

Excitedly, Sue Nap

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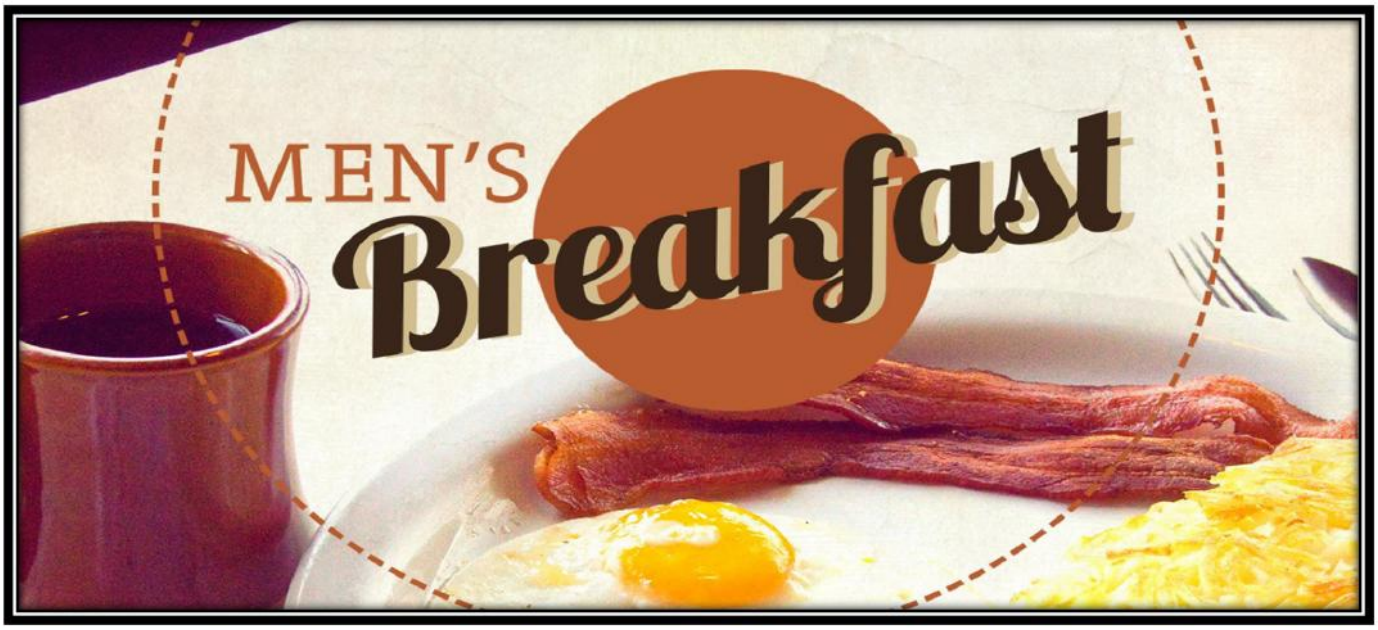
## PEAK IN THE WEEK

NO trick but a real TREAT! That's our next book — ***Theo of Golden*** by Allen Levi. You may have already read Theo, it's been a well talked about book for a while now. If you have, then please join us and share your thoughts about the book — it's character, the setting, how it made you think and feel. We're going to talk, talk, **talk**, about it beginning the first Wednesday in November, that's November 3, at 11:00 in the library.

Not a Peaker? Never been to Peak in the Week? There is NO BETTER time to start than right now. No rules or regulations, no membership fees, no dress code — what more could anyone want?

Bring your left-over Halloween candy to share, if you'd like. We'll have the light on for you.




# Faith ~ Food ~ Fellowship

The Men's Breakfast Group will hold its November 2026 meeting at The Americana Diner, on Route 35, in Shrewsbury, on

**Saturday, November 21, 2026, from 8:30 to 10:00 AM.**

Our gatherings provide a welcoming atmosphere where men of all ages can share their journeys, ask challenging questions, and find encouragement for everyday life. Together, we aim to uplift one another, serve our church family, and be a visible testament to Christ's transforming power in our community and the world.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with others! Please call the Parish Office at (732) 741-2220 by Thursday, November 19th, to register!

at Christ Episcopal Church



Wednesday, November 25th
following the 12:15 service
in the Christ Church Parish House

Bring a potluck dish to share and your friends and family! All are welcome to join us in giving thanks and enjoying a delicious meal! Turkey, stuffing, and beverages will be provided--bring your favorite sides and desserts.

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

A time to give thanks and celebrate together

Join us at 10:00 am on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26th, at 10:00 am for our brief but beautiful Thanksgiving Service with Holy Communion.
All are welcome!

# HOLIDAY BAZAAR & CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG CONCERT

Our Christmas Sing-a-Long Concert and Holiday Bazaar are just around the corner! On Friday, December 4th, and Saturday, December 5th, Christ Church will be spreading holiday cheer around our whole community—and we want YOU to be a part of it! The festivities kick off at 5 pm on Friday with a homemade, cozy soup dinner in our Parish House. Choose from lots of different delicious soups—or try a bunch with our Soup Flight offer! Your dinner ticket includes soup, gourmet bread, a delicious dessert, and hot cocoa or apple cider. AND you get a sneak preview of our Bazaar offerings, with vendors on hand and ready to go, along with admission to our Sing-a-Long Concert!

After your dinner, come over to the church at 7 pm for our first ever Christmas Sing-a-Long! Our musician, David Citron, will play all of our holiday favorites and we'll be there with bells on—literally! This is a great event for kids and families of all ages.

Tickets for dinner and the concert are $25; concert only is $15.

On Saturday, our doors open at 9 am. Our local vendors are excited to share their crafts with us, Santa will be joining us for your Christmas photos, and our café will be open for business, selling light lunches and snacks. Not to mention our world-class bake shop, with homemade goodies to buy as gifts or just for you! We'll also have a 50/50 raffle, gift baskets for auction, and a special place for kids to do their holiday shopping!

To get tickets, please use this form: https://tinyurl.com/4j5f5d78
You can also reserve your tickets by calling or emailing the church: 732-741-2220 or theparish@christchurchshrewsbury.org.






## Get Involved and Help Make the Magic Happen!

The success of the Holiday Bazaar depends on the generosity, creativity, and enthusiasm of our church family and community. **Volunteers and donations are needed, and everyone is welcome to participate!**

A special **Basket Decorating Workshop will be held on Sunday, November 1, following the 10:00 a.m. service.** This is a wonderful opportunity to help create the beautiful themed baskets that make our raffle such a popular attraction.

****Donations for the Basket Raffle are needed before November 1.**

We are also seeking **donations for Trinkets and Treasures**, along with volunteers to help organize and sell items. Whether you can donate your time, share your baking talents, prepare a pot of soup, contribute raffle items, or help for just a few hours, your support makes a difference.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- •Soup makers for Friday night's soup dinner
- •Bakers to prepare homemade treats for the Bake Shop
- •50/50 raffle salespeople
- •Trinkets and Treasures salespeople
- •Youth Group volunteers to serve soup and lunch
- •Calendar Cashout salespeople
- •Santa's Workshop children's room salespeople
- •Basket raffle ticket salespeople
- •**Two volunteers to play Santa!**
- •A photographer and salesperson for Santa pictures
- •Kitchen staff for Friday night's soup dinner and Saturday's lunch
- •Additional volunteers for setup, decorating, shopping areas, and other bazaar activities

**Sign-up sheets are available in the Parish House** for anyone interested in volunteering. Please stop by to choose a position and help make this year's event a success. Donations of new, unused items for themed baskets and contributions for Trinkets and Treasures are also greatly appreciated.

With Holiday Joy in My Heart,
Kristen Downs

# THE GATHERING

On Wednesday, 10/21/26, we held **The Gathering** with a smaller group than usual. A total of 15 Gatherers attended.

Marcus got us started by lighting the candles on the altar. Then we all sang with gusto, I Will Sing a Song Unto the Lord, and made a joyous noise with our hand instruments.

Our discussion began with the showing of two presents- one wrapped in a Lowe's paper bag and one in a pretty blue gift bag with white tissue paper peeking out. We guessed what might be inside the bags and which one we would want to receive. Finally, we opened the blue gift bag first. Inside was white tissue paper, crumpled-up paper towels, and an empty cat food box! Not a gift anyone wanted! But when we opened the Lowe's plain brown paper bag, it was filled with M&M chocolate chip cookies!! A great gift!

We have been talking for several **Gatherings** about the gifts that God has given us to share with others. Today we talked about how it doesn't matter what people look like on the outside; it matters how they act and how they share their gifts with others.

Then each person shared what their own gift is, and how it helps them be a good friend.

We then finished with the rest of the prayer service and a couple of hearty rounds of the Shalom Song. The noise was joyful indeed! Then Marcus put out the candles, and we all had some cookies and fellowship time.

Today was the last day of our service project of filling out Christmas cards with words or pictures for the Christmas at Sea Ministry of The Seaman's Church Institute.

Altogether, The Gatherers signed or drew on about 40 cards to include in ditty bags for those on the waterways who do not go home for Christmas. We now need a new service project to work on after our prayer service in the Parish House.

If you have an idea for a service project, please let a member of **The Gathering** Committee know.

We have not had an attendee as of yet for our **Gathering** on the second Sunday of the month at 1:00. Please help us spread the word by posting flyers where they will be seen. If you can help in any way, please let me know.

-Tia LaPiana

# THOSE WHO SERVE NOVEMBER

**November 1**
Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Denzel Donaldson, Tia LaPiana (CB), Cassandra Murphy
Lectors: Peggy James, Bob Van Valkenburgh
Ushers: Elaine Feyereisen, Judi Buncher
Interim Organist: David Citron
Altar Guild: Colleen & Mark Roth
Coffee Hour: Denzel Donaldson

**November 8**
Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Abe, Dexter, & Kodi Craven, Denzel Donaldson, Edgar John
Lectors: Connie Goddard, Laura Stroebel
Ushers: Peggy James, John Callaghan
Interim Organist: David Citron
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster
Coffee Hour: Host Needed!

**November 15**
Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Denzel Donaldson, Joshua & Matthew Dunford
Lectors: Kodi Craven, Tara Dunford
Ushers: Bramley Maber, Christine Maber
Interim Organist: David Citron
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Tia LaPiana
Coffee Hour: Halina & Cindy

**November 22**
Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Denzel Donaldson, Edgar John
Lectors: Tia LaPiana, Bob Van Valkenburgh
Ushers: Walter Dein, George Edwards
Interim Organist: David Citron
Altar Guild: Madna Aubry
Coffee Hour: Host Needed!

**November 29**
Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Denzel Donaldson, Tia LaPiana (CB), Cassandra Murphy
Lectors: Connie Goddard, Peggy James
Ushers: Elaine Feyereisen, Judi Buncher
Interim Organist: David Citron
Altar Guild: Colleen & Mark Roth
Coffee Hour: Host Needed!

# NOVEMBER 2026

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1**<br>10 am<br>Holy Eucharist followed by Basket Decorating Workshop | **2** | **3** | **4**<br>11 am<br>Peak in the Week<br>12:15 pm<br>Holy Eucharist<br>7 pm<br>Centering Prayer | **5**<br>12:00<br>Brown Bag Bible Study | **6** | **7**<br>5 pm<br>Holy Eucharist |
| **8**<br>10 am<br>Holy Eucharist<br>1:00 pm<br>The Gathering | **9** | **10** | **11**<br>11 am<br>Peak in the Week<br>12:15 pm<br>Holy Eucharist | **12**<br>12:00<br>Brown Bag Bible Study | **13** | **14**<br>4 - 8 pm<br>Panera Fundraiser<br>5 pm<br>Holy Eucharist |
| **15**<br>10 am<br>Holy Eucharist | **16** | **17** | **18**<br>11 am<br>Peak in the Week<br>11:00 am<br>The Gathering<br>12:15 pm<br>Holy Eucharist | **19**<br>12:00<br>Brown Bag Bible Study | **20** | **21**<br>8:30 – 10 am<br>Men's Breakfast<br>5 pm<br>Holy Eucharist |
| **22**<br>10 am<br>Holy Eucharist | **23**<br>7 pm<br>Vestry Meeting | **24** | **25**<br>12:15 pm<br>Friendsgiving Service & Potluck | **26**<br>10:00 am<br>Thanksgiving Service | **27** | **28**<br>5 pm<br>Holy Eucharist |
| **29**<br>10 am<br>Holy Eucharist | **30** | | | | | |

# Christ Church Shrewsbury

380 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
www.ChristChurchShrewsbury.org + theparish@christchurchshrewsbury.org + 732-741-2220

Follow our Social Accounts on:

"Be friends with Christ Church Shrewsbury" and then invite your friends to be our friend so we all can be informed and connected to events in our community.

**SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST.**
**BRING SOMEONE TO CHURCH WITH YOU.**

The Reverend Susanna Cates, Priest-in-Charge
The Reverend William Balmer, Deacon
Denzel Donaldson, Seminarian
Francesca Parker, Office Administrator

**VESTRY 2026**

Elaine Feyereisen - Senior Warden
Peggy James - Junior Warden, Stewardship
Carl Alfano
Madna Aubry - Stewardship, GFS Representative
Julie Sinn Cassidy - Youth Ministries
Walter Dein - Property
Bramley Maber
Lisa Marino
Sue Napoletano - Church School
Susan Sellers - ECW Liaison
Robert Stewart - Historian & Graveyard

Nancy Stewart - Vestry Clerk

Stephen Craven - Treasurer
Lynn Marengo - Asst. Treasurer

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